

REMARKS

Claim 1-15 are pending in this application. Applicants had filed a notice of appeal and an appeal brief on April 28, 2005. In response, the Examiner issued an office action rejecting claims 1-15 on different grounds. In the July 26, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-15 as anticipated by Kisor (U.S. Patent No. 6,098,091). Applicants respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1, as amended, recites that the registered information characterizing said pieces of terminal equipment includes "information identifying equipment types and functional characteristics of said pieces of terminal equipment" Kisor does not teach or even suggest registration information identifying "equipment types."

Kisor teaches a method and system for assigning tasks to computers connected via a wide area network. In particular, the Kisor system includes a central computer and one or more remote computers. The central computer polls each remote computer as to its availability and its computational capabilities. The central computer then assigns tasks to available idle computers for processing. Thus, each piece of terminal equipment in Kisor is a computer. Accordingly, the Kisor system does not disclose, nor would have any need for, registration information identifying equipment types.

The present invention, by contrast, relates to a communication system, an information controller, a network system, and a variety of terminal equipment. The terminal equipment may be, for example, a computer 35 and 53, a printer 36 and 54, a television 32, an audio reproducing system 34, a video tape recording system 33, a facsimile machine/telephone 37, or any other resource that a user may access, and communicate information with, via a computer network. See e.g. Fig. 1; Spec., 6:3-10, 13-19<sup>1</sup>. Thus, the registered information, as recited in claim 1, includes information identifying a type of equipment for the pieces of terminal equipment in the system. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1, as well as dependent claim 2 is allowable

over the cited art. For the same reasons, Applicants submit that claims 3-15 are also allowable over the cited art.

Finally, Applicants have also amended claims 1 and 10 to address the typographical errors identified by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection to claims 1 and 10 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-15 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: Alison Schwartz

Alison P. Schwartz  
Registration No. 43,863  
SONNENSCHEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP  
P.O. Box 061080  
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080  
(312) 876-8000

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Roxanne M. Swartz  
Roxanne M. Swartz